

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

agricultural situation

THE CROP REPORTERS MAGAZINE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • CROP REPORTING BOARD

EXPERTISE
TO SHARE



EXPERTISE TO SHARE

When it comes to agricultural statistics, few countries in the world have the sophisticated data collection system that's been developed and refined in the United States.

This expertise is also exportable. Each year, the International Programs Staff of the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service (ESCS) sends teams of specialists to a number of countries—mainly in Latin America, Asia, and Africa—that want improved data on domestic farm production.

"We began providing this type of technical assistance back in the late 1950's," explains Glenn Fisher, International Programs Officer. "Requests for aid have increased over the years, particularly in Central America, and ESCS statisticians have helped establish and improve agricultural estimating systems in such diverse places as Paraguay, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Tunisia. During 1977, our people served in 14 nations."

Basically it works like this: A country realizes that it needs accurate data on one or more of its major crops to determine export

levels or set up domestic food programs.

Lacking the resources or trained personnel to fill these needs, the country asks the Agency for International Development (AID) for technical assistance. AID channels the request to the Department of Agriculture, but coordinates the exchange of personnel and pays all salaries and expenses.

"Occasionally we provide support on a resident basis, where the statistician stays abroad for at least 2 years. Residents have a real advantage in getting things done," Fisher notes, "simply by being on top of the project full-time."

Currently, there are two people on resident assignments, one based in Costa Rica helping develop statistical systems and related sampling procedures in several Central American countries. The other's in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, serving as statistical advisor to the United States-Saudi Arabian Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation.

Otherwise, the foreign program operates on a temporary duty basis, in which statisticians make several 2-3 week trips to one country to initiate a survey project and help carry it through.



"Once abroad," says Fisher, "they work with their counterparts—statisticians employed by the host country's ministry of agriculture. Our experts help these people refine current survey methods, or more frequently, develop an entire data collection system that's tailored to the area's specific needs and train local personnel to conduct future surveys.

"When we're asked to come up with a whole survey package, we usually take a team approach, sending several specialists rather than one person."

A mathematical statistician is usually the first person on the scene. It's up to him to find out exactly what's wanted and what it will take to do the job.

For example, does the country wish a nationwide survey or a smaller pilot project? Are there up-to-date maps of the area to be covered? Trained personnel to work with?

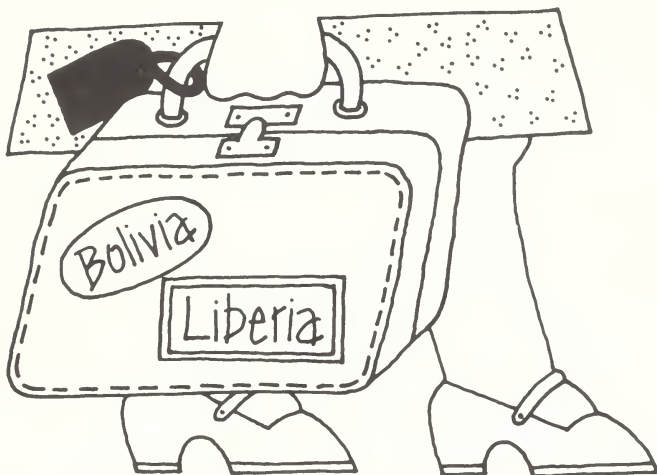
Generally the job will demand building an area frame. This involves using aerial photographs and topographic maps to divide the survey area into segments, which will be grouped according to current land use, and later selected out on a random basis to be sampled.

"In some countries," Fisher relates, "aerial photos aren't available and we've had only hand-drawn maps to rely on. In other instances, the photography's there but the terrain lacks clear-cut boundaries such as rivers and roads which we use to delineate the segments. We frequently send an expert in frame construction for this phase of the project, particularly if the assignment is this tough.

"In most of our foreign work, the information is collected by personal interviews with producers whose land falls within the sample segments. To help train the interviewers, design questionnaires, check on quality control, and provide overall guidance to the data gathering process, we usually assign a survey statistician."

Still another team member may be called in after the interviews are completed. That's the systems analyst who trains local technicians to process and summarize the data.

While that's the basic pattern, every country and each new assignment present unique challenges. According to Howard Holden, mathematical statistician on the Pakistan project, developing a new data collection system can be a "very slow process."



"We went to Pakistan for the first time in 1975," Holden explains, "to help refine their wheat estimating methods after previous harvests fell shy of official expectations."

Holden found that the Pakistanis were using a survey sample that was 20 years old and encompassed the entire country. His objective was to develop an area frame in the agriculturally important Punjab region only.

"We didn't work from aerial photographs," says Holden, "since they had something even better. The region's 20,000 villages are laid out in areas of 1,000 to 2,000 square acres. Farmers work out from the villages where the land is divided into 1-acre plots.

"Each community has a 'village cloth,' a sheet-sized piece of muslin that precisely maps out all plots worked by village farmers. We used these cloths to draw our segments."

Right now, Pakistan hasn't the resources for more sophisticated in-the-field counts and measurements. Data are collected by personal interview within sample segments.

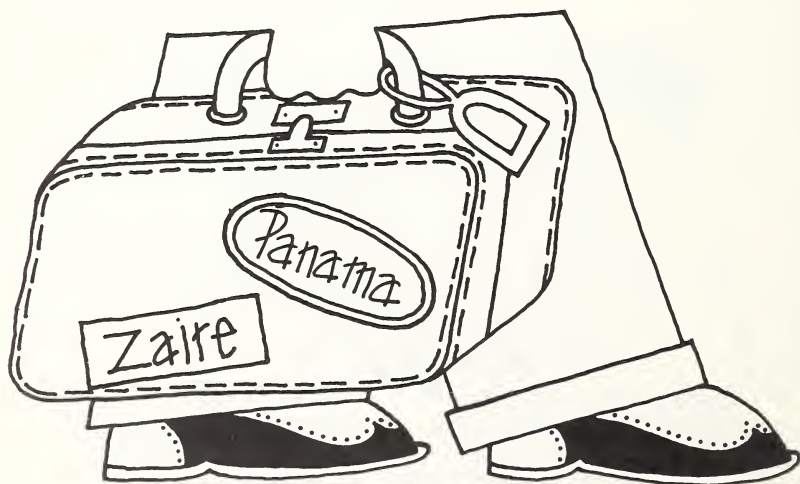
As in the United States, enumerators are hired on a part-time basis. "Since none of our team was fluent in Urdu," Holden explains, "we played only a limited role in



In the Punjab, a "village cloth" serves as a local map, precisely delineating each plot farmed by village residents.

enumerator training and hoped that we had adequately trained our English-speaking counterparts for this phase of the project.

"One difficulty is that the enumerators don't always go out to the fields to interview producers but remain in the villages and rely on a spokesman to report what's in the



cropping area. This, of course, works against accuracy.

"Initially, it appeared that data processing would be a problem too. When we first arrived, we found only one electric calculator which had been bare-wired into the socket due to an ill-fitting plug. Summarizing data collected from 1,000 samples on such a machine is possible, but extremely tedious and prone to error. Fortunately, we're now able to get computer time in some of the bigger centers like Islamabad.

"We're returning to Pakistan this March to review the Punjab project and help with any difficulties. From there, we'll head to the Sind province, where we'll be starting the entire process over again."

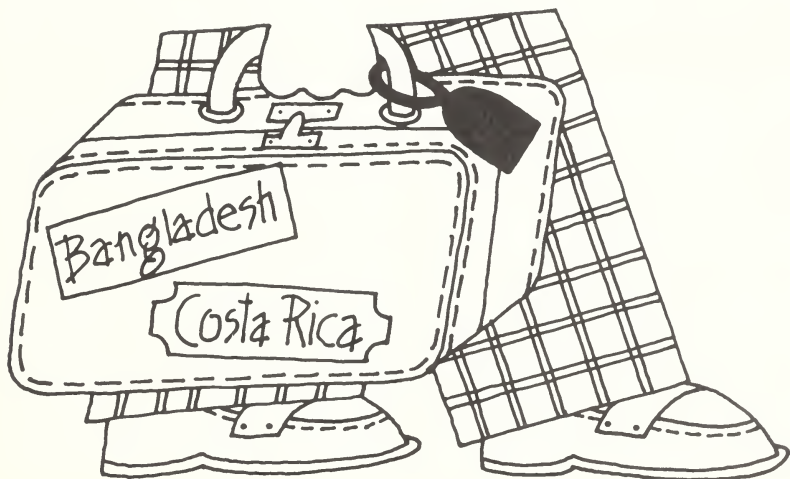
Kathy Morrissey, with ESCS's Research Division, recently returned from a very different type of assignment in Jamaica. "Unlike the Pakistan project, which centered on one crop," she explains, "our work aimed at production estimates for a large number of minor crops, including bananas, citrus, tree nuts, vegetables, cocoa, and cocoanuts.

"Also, we went to Jamaica only to construct an area frame, rather than develop an entire data collection system and train the Jamaicans in each phase of the survey process."

According to Morrissey, the Jamaica project was also a "start-from-scratch" effort, without the luxury of aerial photos. Instead, the team had to work from old maps on which ministry employees had plotted the areas planted to various crops based on "drive-through" observations.

"With these, we began building an area frame for 13 of Jamaica's 14 parishes, which are roughly the equivalent of U.S. counties," Morrissey notes. "Lack of materials and manpower, however, limited our progress. For example, we had originally requested four to six full-time staff members but were assigned only one. As a result, we were able to complete an area frame and select sample segments for only three parishes during our 2 weeks' stay.

"The Jamaicans appear to publish agricultural data on a timely basis, compared with other countries where our statisticians have traveled. In the past though, they had no way of measuring the accuracy of their findings. Although we won't be assisting with further steps in the island's survey work, such as training enumerators or processing data, we hope the basic framework we've provided will lead to more reliable results."



ANOTHER RECORD CROP YEAR

It was a year to rewrite the record books on U.S. agricultural production. Farmers harvested more in 1977 than any other year, but the value of that output turned down by about a billion dollars from the year before.

Growers seeded 343 million acres; harvested 331 million (both 2-percent increases); and, helped by higher yields, topped the previous production record. The all-crops production index (1967=100) registered 129, an 8-point rise over both 1975 and 1976.

Cotton showed the largest increase of principal crops while surges in feed grains, oil crops, and

hay and forage helped push the harvest to a record level. Down from the year before were food grains, sugar crops, and tobacco.

Corn and soybean output hit new highs; corn for the third consecutive year. Even though wheat production dropped 5 percent, it was the third largest crop on record.

The Crop Reporting Board estimated total value of principal U.S. crops at \$54.6 billion, down from 1976's \$55.7 billion.

Estimated prices per unit shown below for 1975 and 1976 are season averages received by farmers for all sales during the crop year. All prices for 1977 are preliminary.

PRODUCTION

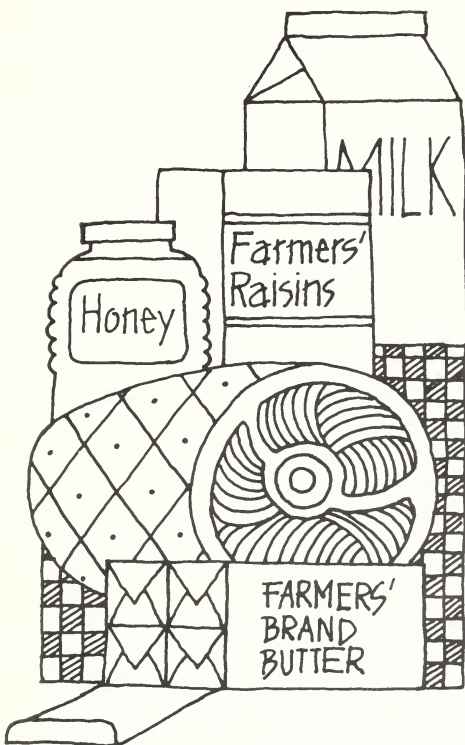
Crop	Unit	1975	1976	1977
Corn for grain	bil. bu.	5.8	6.3	6.4
Sorghum for grain	mil. bu.	753.0	719.8	790.6
Wheat	bil. bu.	2.1	2.1	2.0
Rice	mil. cwt.	128.4	115.6	99.2
Soybeans	bil. bu.	1.5	1.3	1.7
Cotton	mil. bales	8.3	10.6	14.5
Hay	mil. tons	132.2	120.0	131.1
Potatoes	mil. cwt.	322.3	357.7	352.0
Tobacco	bil. lbs.	2.2	2.1	1.9
Sugarbeets	mil. tons	29.7	29.4	25.1

PRICES

Average dollars per unit received by farmers

Crop	Unit	1975	1976	1977
Corn for grain	bu.	2.54	2.15	2.02
Sorghum for grain	bu.	2.37	2.03	1.76
Wheat	bu.	3.56	2.73	2.31
Rice	cwt.	8.35	7.02	9.36
Soybeans	bu.	4.92	6.81	5.46
Cotton	lb.	.51	.64	.52
Hay	ton	52.20	60.40	54.10
Potatoes	cwt.	4.48	3.59	3.64
Tobacco	lb.	1.03	1.13	1.19
Sugarbeets	ton	27.60	21.00	not available

BRANDS THAT FARMERS OWN



Remember the last time you were on a commercial airliner and the stewardess brought you something to drink and some smoked almonds in a blue and silver foil packet?

Chances are you looked at the brand name on the packet. It probably was familiar. The company name may have been familiar too. But it's highly likely you didn't know the almond brand belongs to a farmer cooperative.

Many cooperative processors aren't identified with their brand names even though some of those names are the best known on retail shelves.

The almond processor in this case, a farmer cooperative, is the California Almond Growers Exchange.

A national produce magazine

recently reported that the brand of Sunkist Growers, Inc., that appears on citrus products ranked among the top five produce brands known to consumers. Yet a Gallup poll in 1976 reported that only 13 percent of the public knows Sunkist is a farmer cooperative. The same poll reported that only 10 percent knows the nationally distributed brands of Land O'Lakes, Inc., found on dairy products are also farmer cooperative brands.

Cooperative leaders are concerned over the identity gap and have been urging co-op processors to link themselves more closely to their brand names.

More than 80 cooperatives across the Nation currently put out products under about 300 different brand names. In most cases, the cooperatives were established by the same farmers who grow the products.

To be sure, most cooperative processors are small compared with their noncooperative competitors. But they're located in nearly all parts of the country and their products line retail shelves everywhere. Many co-ops market brands in foreign nations.

In 1975—the last year for which records are available—cooperatives that marketed their own branded products reported a gross income from all sources of more than \$15 billion.

So if you ate some almonds, oranges, or raisins, drank milk, or had ham or honey on your dinner table recently, it's possible one or more of them bore a brand owned by a farmer cooperative.

A complete listing of these brands and the cooperatives that market them can be found in a publication entitled *Cooperative Brands and Processed Foods*. If you'd like a copy, or want more information on cooperative brand names, write ESCS Information, Rm. 550 GHI Bldg., U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

SURVEYSCOPE

Agricultural Situation presents a series of articles highlighting special surveys undertaken in various States. While these are not national surveys, they are important to the agriculture in individual States. This month we feature Virginia.

"A severe freeze devastated our fruit crops in 1976," claims Robert Schooley, Virginia agricultural statistician, "but during the previous 4 years, Virginia apples and peaches carried a combined annual value of more than \$30 million. Apples alone usually rank fifth among the State's crops as a source of farm income."

A crop this important to Virginia's farm economy demands a well established and orderly marketing process. And since this specialized industry also requires heavy investments in land and equipment, growers

and processors want all the information they can get to help with cropping and marketing decisions.

"That's why we've made periodic surveys of Virginia's fruit industry since 1924," Schooley reports. "Our 1977 inventory marked a continuation of regional fruit tree surveys taken here and in five other Middle Atlantic States at 5-year intervals starting in 1967."

In 1977, Schooley's office mailed questionnaires to operators of all commercial apple and peach orchards across the State. And due to mounting



More than a million and a half apple trees and close to 338,000 peach trees provide. . .

interest in grape production, questionnaires also went out for the first time to all known commercial vineyards. Later, specially trained enumerators visited all production units from which there had been no response.

The inventory turned up nearly 1.6 million apple trees in Virginia—5 percent fewer than in 1972. Apple orchards, at 599, were down 14 percent. Over a fifth of all trees had been planted in the previous 7 years, and growers said they planned to take some 10,000 older trees out of production during the year and set in some 34,500 new ones.

The 1977 survey also confirmed the continuing shift to dwarf, spur-type, and other semidwarf trees. These smaller trees accounted for 73 percent of all apple trees planted during the past decade.

Results from the peach tree inventory paralleled the apple survey—fewer trees and orchards. Virginia had an estimated 337,600 peach trees, a 9-percent drop since the 1972 survey.

Commercial peach orchards had declined from 324 to only 263.

"In the early days," Schooley explains, "peach trees were used as fillers in young apple orchards, and promptly torn out once the apple trees reached bearing age.

"The practice of planting peach trees alone increased rapidly during the 1920's and 1930's, but our peach-bearing trees began a steady decline after peaking in 1949. Since 1972, however, the rate of decrease amounted to only about half that of the two previous 5-year periods. Also, plantings during 1974-76 shot up 31 percent from the preceding 3 years.

Virginia's apple and peach tree inventory also found just over 18,700 nectarine trees. Roughly two-thirds were 6 years old or under.

Commercial grape vineyards occupied nearly 170 acres. More than 60 percent had been planted to French-American hybrids, and vines in two-thirds of the total acreage had been set during the previous 3 years.



... Virginia growers a harvest that's usually worth just over \$30 million each year.

EASY PICKINGS

A strong back has been the main tool for getting commercial strawberries to market in the Pacific Northwest. Soon a berry named "Linn" could change all that.

Developed by a USDA scientist in Corvallis, Oreg., Linn is a new variety of strawberry that's uniquely adapted to mechanical harvesting.

The fruit grows almost completely exposed and the berries are highly concentrated—easy pickings for a harvesting machine. The strawberry remains firm when ripe, has good color and flavor, and features a prominent stem that can be removed easily.

Over a 4-year period, the Linn yielded an average of 5 tons an acre, which is a bit higher than hand-picked strawberries and much better than other varieties yielded when harvested by machine.

Although the Linn strawberry is resistant to some disease, its tolerance to virus is not completely known—work continues in this area.

Labor shortages and recently enacted child labor laws make hand-harvesting uneconomical in the Northwest. Putting machines on the job could reduce hand labor by 75 percent.

FARMLAND CLIMBS AT SLOWER PACE

Buying farmland meant paying more again in 1977. But the upward spiral slowed, as prices cooled to an 11-percent advance for the year ending November 1977, compared with 17 percent the previous year. Preliminary estimates put the average price of agricultural land at \$474 an acre, up from \$428 in November 1976.

Maps on the opposite page emphasize the extent that price increases softened as the year progressed. Average real estate values climbed only 5 percent after February, indicating that over half the annual increase occurred during November through January.

As of last October, prices had begun slipping for some of the costliest farmland in the North Central region. Nebraska, however, was the only State to register a decrease from February, with a 2-percent drop to \$392.

Keeping the lid on runaway prices were the wait-and-see attitude adopted by prospective buyers and the increasingly cautious stance taken by lenders as farmers' cash flow positions worsened.

Low crop prices, caused by large world supplies, and escalating input costs created the tight cash situation. This proved particularly troublesome for producers who had financed large investments by mortgaging their assets.

Farm real estate market reporters cited low commodity prices as the prime factor affecting the land market. Traditionally, farm enlargement had been the chief influence.

Other forces named by reporters included livestock prices (cited by 13 percent), spreading population centers, farmer and nonfarmer investment in agriculture as a hedge against inflation, and the weather.

On the whole, agricultural land costs have rocketed during the 1970's. Back in March 1971, an acre of U.S. farmland averaged what now seems a low \$204.

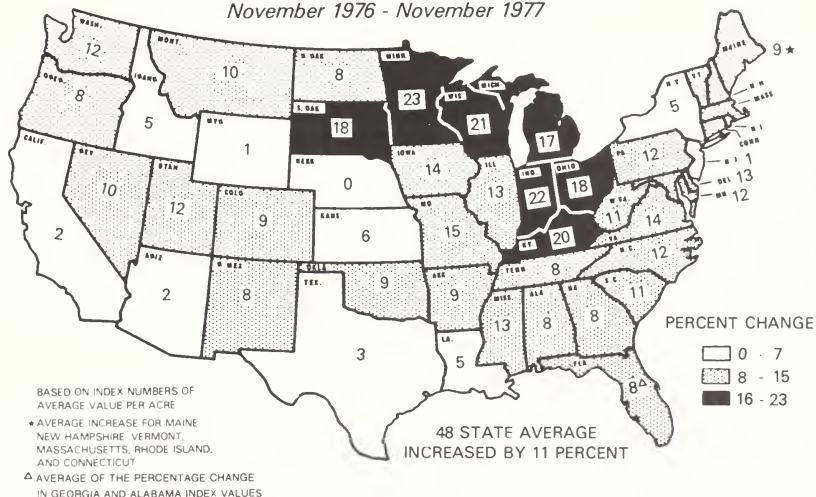
States showing the largest increases during 1977 were centered in the upper Ohio Valley and Great Lakes region. Land values jumped 20 percent and more in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Kentucky. Buyers in South Dakota, Michigan, and Ohio found land prices at least 17 percent higher than a year earlier.

As usual, purchasers paid the most for farmland in the Northeast and Corn Belt, where prices ranged over \$1,000 an acre. New Jersey continued to lead all States with a per acre value of \$2,025, while farmland in Illinois carried an

average value of \$1,508, the highest in the Corn Belt. Regionally, farmland values were lowest in the Mountain States, where New Mexico and Nevada each posted an average value of less than \$100 an acre.

PERCENT CHANGE IN AVERAGE VALUE OF FARM REAL ESTATE PER ACRE

November 1976 - November 1977



Briefings

RECENT REPORTS BY USDA OF ECONOMIC, MARKETING, AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING FARMERS.

FLORAL PATTERN . . . From carnations to potted hydrangeas, floriculturists earned \$754 million last year from sales of 16 major crops. The Crop Reporting Board said that was a 9% gain from the year before, largely due to increases of 23% for bedding plants and 12% for foliage plants—two groups that accounted for more than half the total sales. Growers sold more miniature carnations, pompon mums, and roses to help offset declining sales of standard carnations, standard mums, gladioli, and snapdragons. Potted mums chalked up the highest value per square foot, at \$3.09, followed by lilies at \$2.66. For the first time, Hawaii was included in the Board's annual floriculture report with surveys of anthuriums and foliage plants.

TURKEY ENTERS WORLD WHEAT MARKET . . . Consecutive record wheat harvests in 1976 and 1977 thrust Turkey into the world wheat market as a substantial exporter. A net wheat importer from 1960 to 1973, Turkey made a sharp turnabout on the strength of a record 13-million-ton crop in 1976 and topped that by an estimated half million tons the following year. Government efforts to improve farming techniques paid off when growers overcame less-than-ideal weather for a bumper crop. With large 1976 carryover stocks and prospects for a record harvest in 1977, Turkey began cultivating export markets. A West German firm became the first customer (15,000 tons), and other international grain exporting companies have bought more than 1.3 million tons for shipment to countries in North Africa and the Middle East.

CASHEW SHORTAGE . . . Declining cashew output in Mozambique and Tanzania more than offset record crops in India and Brazil during 1976, causing an acute shortage of raw cashews for processing. According to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, India's large cashew processing industry—a major supplier to the U.S.—was especially hard hit because of reduced supplies from East Africa. Although Indian export prices doubled year-earlier levels and reached an all-time high in July 1977, low stocks caused serious defaults in export contracts.

HOP HOLDINGS HOVER NEAR RECORD LEVELS . . . The March 1 hop inventory totaled 74.6 million pounds, off 1% from a year ago, but 4% over 1976. The Crop Reporting Board said brewers held 63.5 million pounds—85% of the stocks—slightly below year-earlier levels. Dealers' holdings declined 9%, but growers' stocks rose to 680,000 pounds. Dry hops, at 49.3 million pounds—71% grown domestically—accounted for two-thirds of the total inventory. U.S. hop production during 1977 came to nearly 55 million pounds, marking a 5% drop from the previous year.

RECORD POULTRY AND EGG SHIPMENTS . . . Exports of U.S. poultry and eggs during 1977 reached \$283 million, setting a record for the sixth straight year. Total value climbed 13% over 1976 despite the U.S. longshoremen's strike against containerized cargo, increased output in major producing countries, continued limited access to the important European Community (EC) market, and subsidized competition for whole broilers from the EC and Brazil. Last year's record included gains in both the poultry meat and egg categories, although shipments of live poultry remained near the year-earlier level.

TABLE TALK . . . The Nation maintained its nutritional level last year and perhaps its waistline as well by matching the caloric and nutrient intake of 1976, a year of record high food consumption. Among the 14 nutrients estimated, thiamin gained 1% due to increased pork consumption, while calcium and riboflavin levels declined 1% from reduced use of nonfat dry milk. Ascorbic acid (vitamin C) dropped 2% after the 1977 Florida freeze reduced citrus supplies. Stepped-up consumption of meat, margarine, oils, sugar, and shortening since 1975 raised the levels of the three energy-yielding nutrients—protein, fat, and carbohydrate—resulting in a 4% hike in food energy.

COTTON WRAP-UP . . . USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service forecasts world cotton area for 1978/79 at 31.4 million hectares, down about 4½% from the current season. Blamed for the downturn is the sharp drop in cotton prices from a year earlier. The experts estimate world output during the current 1977/78 season at a record 65.3 million bales, roughly 7 million bales over last year, and a million more than the previous record in 1974/75. Use of cotton this season is expected to remain near last season's 61.2 million bales due to continued slack demand for textiles. For the first time in three seasons, production will top consumption, allowing some rebuilding of stocks, which had slipped to their lowest level in many years.

STICKY SITUATION. . .U.S. honey producers increased their bee colonies to 4.3 million in 1977, but produced the least honey in 38 years. The Crop Reporting Board noted a 1% rise in colonies; however, output fell 11% to 176 million pounds, and yield per colony declined 12% to 40.9 pounds, the lowest since 1954. Total value of the crop dipped 6% below 1976 to \$93.5 million. Contributing to the decline were the extended California drought, a cold winter in Florida and New York, and a dry season in North Dakota with cool temperatures early in the fall. Florida was the Nation's top producer, with 14.4 million pounds of honey, followed closely by California's 13.65 million. Beeswax production also decreased, down 9% to 3.1 million pounds.

NONCITRUS FRUITS AND NUTS RALLY. . .Growers pushed noncitrus fruit production to 11.4 million tons in 1977, 3% higher than the year before. More grapes, apples, peaches, prunes, and plums helped offset downturns in pears, olives, and sweet cherries. The Crop Reporting Board said production value rose 10% to \$2.2 billion for 19 deciduous fruits. Last year, edible nut output also surged, up 23% from 1976. All nuts (almonds, filberts, macadamias, pecans, and walnuts) showed increases while value leaped 44% to \$575 million.

TAKING STOCK OF ONIONS. . .Onions held in common storage in the 11 summer onion producing States combined with cold storage stocks throughout the U.S. to reach an estimated 5.4 million cwt. on January 1, a 4% rise over a year earlier. Cold storage holdings, at 63,000 cwt., dropped 36% below January 1977. Six of the 11 States reported common storage increases, but shrinkage and loss outpaced 1976. Producers had sold 16.5 million cwt. of the 1977 crop before the first of the year, up 5% from 1976. Losses from shrinkage, waste, and cullage totaled 3.6 million cwt., slightly more than the previous year.

SUMMING UP FERTILIZER. . .Farmers likely will see steady or lower fertilizer prices through the coming spring buttressed by ample supplies and possibly weaker demand. Relatively low commodity prices and the set-aside programs could hold domestic use near or below the record 51.6 million tons of the July/June 1976/77 fertilizer year when producers applied 5% more fertilizer at comparatively stable prices. Regionally, fertilizer use reflected drought conditions in the Mountain States, generally favorable crop price prospects at planting time in the Southeast and Appalachia, and increased cotton acreage in the southern Plains. Supplies again should be more than adequate in 1977/78. Although fertilizer application rates are expected to increase, land earmarked for set-aside programs could offset this rise.

Statistical Barometer

Item	1976	1977	1978—latest available data	
Farm Food Market Basket:¹				
Retail cost (1967=100)	175	² 179	184	January
Farm value (1967=100)	179	² 179	185	January
Farmer's share of retail cost (percent)	39	² 39	39	January
Agricultural Trade:				
Agricultural exports (\$bil.)	23	² 24	1.9	January
Agricultural imports (\$bil.)	11	² 14	1.2	January
Cattle Inventory, January 1:				
Cattle and calves (mil. head)	128.0	122.8	116.3	
Value per head (\$ ³)	190	206	232	
Total value (\$mil.) ³	24,335	25,252	27,029	
Cows and heifers that have calved (mil. head)	55.0	52.4	49.7	
Beef cows (mil. head)	43.9	41.4	38.7	
Milk cows (mil. head)	11.1	11.0	10.9	
Heifers 500 pounds and over (mil. head)	18.5	18.5	17.7	
For beef cow replacement (mil. head)	7.2	6.5	5.8	
For milk cow replacement (mil. head)	4.0	3.9	3.9	
Other heifers (mil. head)	7.4	8.1	8.0	
Steers 500 pounds and over (mil. head)	17.1	16.9	16.8	
Bulls 500 pounds and over (mil. head)	2.8	2.7	2.5	
Heifers, steers, and bulls under 500 pounds (mil. head)	34.5	32.4	29.6	
Livestock and Poultry on Farms, January 1:				
All livestock and poultry (1967=100)	112	109	104	
Meat animals (1967=100)	112	109	104	
Milk cattle (1967=100)	83	82	82	
Poultry (1967=100)	87	87	88	

¹Average annual quantities per family and single person households bought by wage and clerical workers, 1960-61, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics figures.

²Preliminary.

³Based on reporters' estimates of average price per head in their localities.

⁴Includes all lambs born after September 30 the previous year that were on hand January 1. New crop lambs are not included in the sheep and lamb inventory estimates.



AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

MARCH 1978 • VOL. 62 NO. 2
DIANE DECKER, EDITOR

The Agricultural Situation, published 11 times a year by USDA's Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service, is distributed free to crop and livestock reporters in connection with their work. Contents of the magazine may be reprinted without permission. The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of this Department. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget through January 31, 1979. Subscription price \$5.00 a year (\$6.25 foreign). Order from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Single copies available from the ESCS Information Staff, Rm. 5855-South, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250**

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300**

To stop mailing ☐ or to change your
address ☐ send mailing label on this
magazine and new address to ESCS, Rm.
5855 South, USDA, Washington, D.C.
20250.

**POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
AGR 101
BULK THIRD CLASS**

